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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/698,224	10/31/2003	Curtis Lee Carrender	E-1884 (130105.423)	1503
36977 7590 09/19/2007 SEED INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW GROUP PLLC 701 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 5400 SEATTLE, WA 98104-7092			EXAMINER MALONE, STEVEN J	
			ART UNIT 3609	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 09/19/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/698,224

Applicant(s)

CARRENDER, CURTIS LEE

Examiner

Steven J. Malone

Art Unit

3609

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10/31/2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/28/2005, 2/9/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is a first Office Action Non-Final rejection on the merits.

Claims 1-20, as originally filed, are currently pending and have been considered below.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 1 and 12 are objected to because of the following informalities:

in claim 1 at line 4, the phrase "the tags" is taken to mean "the passive tags" for purposes of examining,

in claim 12 at line 1, the term "each", when applied to the case of "one reader", is grammatically incorrect.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Reynolds et al. (2001/0045460).

As per claim 1 Reynolds et al. teaches a method for interfacing with a computer system using multiple electronic tags having:

a reader configured to interrogate the passive tags with radio frequency identification signals and to receive data from the tags in response thereto (See [0029] lines 1-3, a reader for reading multiple passive or active RFID tags),

means for coupling the reader to the Internet to enable the reader to receive control signals via the Internet and to enable the reader to upload the data received from the tags to the Internet (See [0041] and [0042] a reader interface, wired or wireless, connected to a local area network or to the Internet).

As per claim 2, Reynolds et al. teaches a reader coupling means comprising a local connectivity system including a connectivity device and interconnectivity links (See [0043] and [0044], multiple readers 10 linked locally to a host 23).

As per claim 3, Reynolds et al. teaches a means for coupling the reader to the Internet comprising a communication protocol integrated into the reader (See [0042], an interface providing communications over a communications network).

As per claim 4, Reynolds et al. teaches a coupling means comprising wireless communication (See [0042], via a wireless communication network, RF communications or satellite communications).

As per claim 5, Reynolds et al. teaches a reader configurable to respond to command and control signals received via the Internet only from authorized sources (See [0042], sources are authorized by the communication protocols).

As per claim 6 Reynolds et al. teaches:

a plurality of passive tags, each tag associated with a respective object (See [0078] lines 1-3, a reader for reading multiple passive or active RFID tags);

a plurality of readers configured to interrogate the passive tags using radio frequency signals and to receive data therefrom (See [0043], multiple readers);

a device for coupling the readers to a network to enable the readers to receive control and command signals via the Internet and for the readers to upload the data to the network that is received from the passive tags (See [0043], a host in communication with the readers).

As per claim 7, Reynolds et al. teaches a network comprising one from among a local area network and the Internet (See [0042], a local area network and the Internet).

As per claim 8, Reynolds et al. teaches each of the plurality of readers are associated with a predetermined group of the passive tags (See [0043], via automatically performing inventory).

As per claim 9, Reynolds et al. teaches readers configurable to receive command and control signals from only an authorized source (See [0042], sources are authorized by the communication protocols).

As per claim 10, Reynolds et al. teaches at least one remote device configured to be coupled to the network for sending command and control signals to the readers via the network and to receive data uploaded from the readers to the network (See [0042], commands from and communication with host).

As per claim 11 Reynolds et al. teaches:
a plurality of tags, each tag associated with a respective asset (See [0030], associating an RFID tag with an object);

Art Unit: 3609

at least one reader configured to interrogate the tags and to receive data therefrom regarding the associated assets (See [0029], interrogating one or more RFID tags with an associated object);

a device for coupling the at least one reader to the Internet to enable the at least one reader to receive control and command signals via the Internet and for the at least one reader to upload the data from the tags to the Internet (See [0042], commands from and communication with the Internet); and

a remote device coupled to the Internet and configured to transmit control and command signals via the Internet to the at least one reader and receive and process the data from the at least one reader (See [0042], via a local area network that is connected to the Internet).

As per claim 12, Reynolds et al. teaches each at least one reader is integrally formed with the device for coupling the at least one reader to the Internet (See [0041], via a reader communications port)

As per claim 13, Reynolds et al. teaches a method for interfacing with a computer system using multiple electronic tags wherein: a plurality of readers each having the coupling device integrally formed therewith (See [0041], [0042], [0043] and [0044], multiple readers with built-in interfaces used to communicate within a network and/or to the Internet.)

As per claim 14, Reynolds et al. teaches a method for interfacing with a computer system using multiple electronic tags wherein: each reader is configured to

Art Unit: 3609

communicate with a predetermined group of tags (See [0043], via automatically performing inventory).

As per claim 15, Reynolds et al. teaches a method for interfacing with a computer system using multiple electronic tags wherein: the device for coupling the reader to the Internet comprises a wireless communication device that couples the reader to the Internet via radio frequency communication (See [0042], via a wireless communication network, RF communications or satellite communications).

As per claim 16, Reynolds et al. teaches a method for interfacing with a computer system using multiple electronic tags wherein: each reader is configured to receive only authorized command and control signals (See [0042], sources are authorized by the communication protocols).

As per claim 17, Reynolds et al. teaches:

a method for interfacing with a computer system using multiple electronic tags comprising the steps of: providing a plurality of tags, each tag associated with a respective asset (See [0029], interrogating one or more RFID tags with an associated object);

issuing commands from a device coupled to the Internet to a reader coupled to the Internet to transmit radio frequency interrogation signals from the reader to the plurality of tags (See [0042], commands from and communication with host);

receiving at the reader data from the plurality of tags in response to the radio frequency interrogation signals (See [0041] and [0042] and [0034], receiving data, at the reader or readers, from the tag or tags);

transferring the data from the reader to the Internet (See [0042], transferring data over the Internet);

receiving the data at the device coupled to the Internet; and processing the received data (See [0043], the data is received by a networked database and may be additionally processed).

As per claim 18, Reynolds et al. teaches a reader configured to receive only authorized command and control signals via the Internet (See [0042], sources are authorized by the communication protocols).

As per claim 19, Reynolds et al. teaches a providing a plurality of readers, each reader associated with a predetermined group of tags (See [0043], via automatically performing inventory).

As per claim 20, Reynolds et al. teaches providing a plurality of readers; configuring each of the plurality of readers to be directly connected to the Internet via an integrally formed interconnectivity device (See [0043], Internet can receive communication from all readers).

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Gujar et al. (6,446,208) discloses a system for tracking multiple passive tags using multiple readers. Carrender et al. (5,850,187) discloses an integrated electronic tag reader and wireless communication link. Landt (6,677,852) discloses a system and method for automatically controlling or configuring a device, such as an

Art Unit: 3609

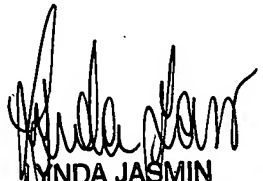
RFID reader. Melby et al. (6,952,680) discloses an apparatus and method for tracking and managing physical assets.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven J. Malone whose telephone number is 571-270-5107. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:30 am - 5:00 pm..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynda Jasmin can be reached on 571-270-3033. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SM

 9/13/07
LYNDA JASMIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER